

REMARKS

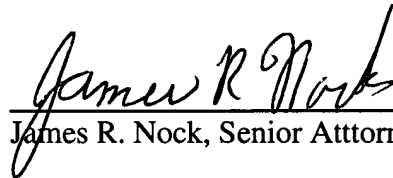
This is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated August 11, 2004, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on November 11, 2004. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

Each of the claims stands rejected on the basis of *Gravelle* (U.S. Pub. 20020178073. Filed herewith is a declaration submitted pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.131. Gordon James Smith, the sole inventor of this application is deceased. Under MPEP 715.04 I. (D), the assignee may submit a declaration under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 when it is not possible to produce the affidavit or declaration of the inventor. It is believed that the declaration removes *Gravelle* as a reference and that the claims are allowable. Allowance of the claims is, therefore, respectfully requested.

Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, the attorney signing below respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

Date: November 12, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "James R. Nock", is written over a horizontal line.

James R. Nock, Senior Attorney